

Orienteering Foundation



Vacancy: Chair of the Orienteering Foundation

The Orienteering Foundation is seeking a new **Chair** to lead the charity and Board of Trustees. This is an important and rewarding opportunity to help shape the future of a charity that promotes and supports orienteering across the UK, bringing the benefits of the sport to more people and helping to ensure its long-term development.

The Chair will lead four Board meetings each year, guide strategic thinking, oversee grant application and award processes, support delivery of key strategic initiatives and maintain strong relationships with partner bodies including British Orienteering. Alongside these core responsibilities, the role offers real scope to help take the Foundation in new directions, working collaboratively with the rest of the Board.

Role & responsibilities

- **Board leadership** - Chair four Board meetings each year, ensuring that meetings are well run, constructive and focused on clear decisions and actions. Two meetings are normally held in person and two online.
- **Strategic direction** - Lead the Board in setting and reviewing the Foundation's strategy, helping trustees focus on priorities that strengthen, widen and sustain orienteering in the UK. Current strategic initiatives include areas such as club development, volunteer support, newcomer retention, coaching opportunities, legacy giving and technology innovation.
- **Charity governance** - Support high standards of governance, ensure that the Board works effectively within the charity's objects and legal responsibilities, and promote sound and well-informed decision-making.
- **Grant oversight** - Oversee the Foundation's grant application and award processes, ensuring applications are considered fairly, in line with the charity's aims, and with appropriate trustee involvement.
- **External relationships** - Maintain positive and constructive relationships with key external bodies and stakeholders, including British Orienteering, while preserving the Foundation's independence and charitable purpose.
- **Future development** - Work with trustees, ambassadors and others to identify emerging needs, new opportunities and fresh directions for the Foundation's work.

Time commitment

The role is expected to average around 1 to 2 days per month across the year. This includes chairing four Board meetings, preparing for meetings, supporting grant rounds, liaising with trustees and stakeholders, and contributing to strategic work between meetings.

Fee and expenses

This is a voluntary leadership role. Reasonable travel expenses for agreed meetings and charity business can be reimbursed. There are typically two face-to-face Board meetings each year, with the remaining meetings held online.

Person specification

Essential

- Ability to provide clear, inclusive and effective leadership to a Board or committee.
- Strategic judgement and the ability to help a charity focus on priorities and long-term impact.
- Ability to chair meetings well, encourage constructive discussion and support sound collective decisions.
- Understanding of good governance and the responsibilities of charity trustees.
- Confidence working with a range of stakeholders and building positive external relationships.
- Commitment to the values and purpose of the Orienteering Foundation.
- Ability to work collaboratively with fellow trustees while also bringing ideas, energy and initiative.

Desirable

- Previous experience as a chair, trustee or senior leader in a charity, voluntary organisation, club or similar body.
- Understanding of grant-making, assessment processes or project oversight.
- Knowledge of or interest in orienteering and the wider sporting landscape.
- Experience of developing strategy, leading change or helping organisations adapt to new opportunities.
- Experience of working with national governing bodies, partner organisations or funders.
- An appreciation of the opportunities and challenges facing volunteer-led sport.

How to apply

If you are interested in this role, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please send a short expression of interest outlining your relevant experience, your interest in the role and what you feel you could bring as Chair of the Orienteering Foundation by 31st May 2026 to the current chair Andrew Evans chair@orienteeringfoundation.org.uk.